

Board members present:

Working Group members present:

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Date: 6 February 1979

[] opened the meeting by giving a short history on the establishment of the Working Group. Apparently the DDA had been approached by the DDO on the question of possible problems on assignment abroad of working married couples. Soon after someone from the DCI's office raised a similar question. Discussions continued for six weeks and in October 1978 the Working Group was formed to look into the issue.

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The group was to define the issues, look at potential problems, and come up with recommendations for management. They elected not to poll the general agency population, but rather dug into past papers done on the subject, talked with people who make assignments, people who make policy, and people who make regulations. They also talked to people at the State Dept. to see whay they would hope to achieve from their pgoram, how effective was it, and what did it cost. [] did mention that there are probably more working married couples today than ever beofre, and that these couples are expected to be mobile.

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The meeting was then opened for discussion.

The question was asked how these people were selected to serve on the Working Group. The members there could not say for sure, but felt it was because of their direct or close experience with the issue. There are three representatives from DDS&T, two from the DDO, four from the DDA and one from the DCI area on the Working Group.

When asked who their final report was to be given to, the response was rather vague, but it would go to management. The report would list advantages and disadvantages of a particular situation, would suggest options, and make recommendations where appropriate.

It was mentioned that the Women's Board has looked into the issues of leave without pay and contract wives. stated these two issues were only a part of the overall problem, but there are contract regulations and there is supposed to be a uniform contract employment, but he did not believe there was a uniform leave without pay policy. Contracts are usually written in the field, but there should be a standard contract for a particular class of employee.

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The Working Group will be considering contract employees at all levels, but they have to take into consideration the statutory, regulatory and moral obligations, and, of course, there is always room for exceptions.

When the question was raised as to why a contract employee in the field had to go through a full scale security investigation when returning to headquarters and wanting to be hired as a staff employee was required, [] suggested that the Board talk directly to the Office of Security.

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It was strongly urged by the Women's Board that this Working Group meet with NAPA. [] said they would look into it.

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